

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health TO THE Burgess Hill Urban District Council For the Year ended 31st December, 1925.



Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1496	Census Returns 1921.
Census Population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5647	
Corrected Census Report (1924)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5647	
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1387	
Number of families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1362	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£45,002	15s. 0d.	
Assessable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£38,133	11s. 3d.	
Sum represented by one penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£158	17s. 9d.	

	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Population estimated to middle of year	5999	5647	5722	5746	5826	5840
Birth Rate per 1000 of Population	18.4	12.0	10.7	13.	11.4	14.0
Deaths under one year per 1000 Births	72.0	90.0	47.0	50.	92.	86.
Total Death Rate per 1000	14.5	13.0	12.0	12.	12.	17.5
Nett Death Rate per 1000	14.5	13.0	12.0	12.	11.4	16.
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000	.3	0.0	.1	0.0	0.0	.1
Death Rate from Phthisis per 1000	1.0	.1	.7	.3	.7	.7
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases per 1000	1.0	.3	.5	.5	1.4	1.0
Senile Mortality, deaths at 65 years and over as percentage of Nett Deaths...	52.	56.0	61.0	50.0	56.0	66.

Births legitimate	...	...	...	Total 76.	Males 31, Females 45	Birth Rate 14.
„ illegitimate	...	...	...	„ 5.	„ 3, „ 2	
Deaths...	...	...	...	„ 81.	„ 32, „ 53	Death Rate 16.

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 Births—86.

Total Deaths under one year—7, Legitimate 7.

Causes of Deaths under one year—6 Premature Births, 1 Whooping Cough.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

According to the Census Returns of England and Wales for the County of Sussex 1921, the Population of the Urban District of Burgess Hill is given as 5,647.

The Population Census 1901 was 4,888; 1911—5,124; 1921—5,647.

The increase of the population between Census 1901 and 1911 was 236, between 1911 and 1921 the increase was 523, a gain of immigration of 366.

The Census Returns show 2511 males and 3136 females. Persons per acre 3.8, Private Families 1,235, Separate Dwellings occupied 1,236, Rooms occupied 7,259, Rooms per person 1.38.

The Death Rate for year 1925 was 16, higher than in any previous year for the past ten years. The cause of this was the excessive Death Rate of persons over 65 years—66 per cent. of the deaths occurred in old people. The Birth Rate was 14—slightly higher than last year.

The chief causes of death—Tuberculosis 5, Cancer 9, Heart Disease 20, Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 9, Accidents 1, Premature Birth 6, Apoplexy 8.

The Infantile Mortality rate or deaths of infants under one year of age is somewhat high. This was due to 6 deaths from Premature Birth and Whooping Cough 1.

## COMPARATIVE RATES IN THE DISTRICT and in ENGLAND AND WALES, 1925.

	Birth Rate.	Infantile Mortality.	Death Rate.
England and Wales	18.3	75	12.2
Burgess Hill	14	86	16



## GENERAL SANITARY SURVEY FOR THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS.

It is ordered that the Medical Officer of Health Annual Report for 1925 shall be a General Sanitary Survey of the District.

The character and social conditions of Burgess Hill have altered little during the past 5 years. The District is chiefly Residential with tradespeople to supply residents with necessities. There are still some pottery works giving employment to workers, also large building works employing several hands. The water supply is excellent. A number of the small houses need constant supervision to keep them in a sanitary state. I have made 4 separate reports on insanitary and overcrowded properties, and notices have been served on the owners to remedy same. In a case of overcrowding the occupiers were prosecuted.

A report was made on the proposed extension of sewer in Janes Lane to receive the sewage from the houses in an adjoining district. A report was also made as to the pollution of the ditches from cesspools in Janes Lane. The work of the Sanitary Inspector has increased of late years, and he has been relieved of the rate collecting so that with this assistance his time should be more occupied with Sanitary work.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<i>Disease</i>					<i>Total</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2	—	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	5	4	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	10	—	—
Chickenpox	...	..	...	...	33	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	M. 3. F. 3	M. 1. F. 2 } 6	1
Non-Pul. „	...	..	..	..	M. 1. F. 3		

Premises disinfected—15.

### NURSING.

District Nurse provided by private subscription for general work.

Hospitals. Beds are provided on payment of a yearly retaining fee and cost of removal in Cuckfield R.D.C. Isolation Hospital, Dean's Farm Hospital, Hurstpierpoint.

Red Cross Ambulance at Haywards Heath is available for accidents.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Inspection of places where food is prepared.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Bakehouses, Butcher Shops, Slaughter Houses are thoroughly and regularly inspected and kept up to a good standard of cleanliness.

Slaughter Houses are inspected during killing time.

Butchers seek advice of the Sanitary Officials whenever suspected meat or carcasses come to their notice.

### DISINFECTION.

Disinfection is carried out after infectious cases by Formalin vapour, Formalin and Sulphur Gas.

Clothing is removed to Hospital for steam disinfection if necessary.

### WATER SUPPLY.

All houses are supplied with water from the Burgess Hill Water Company's Mains under constant pressure.

Samples of water supplied by the Company's mains are sent for analysis quarterly.

The reports in all cases have been satisfactory.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Attention has been given to these Works during the past year.

With exception of 20 houses all are connected with sewers.

A firm of Engineers was called in to advise on the extension of sewage works.



## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Staff—M.O.H. whole time.

Sanitary Inspector is an Associate of R.S.I. and is also Surveyor.

The Sanitary Inspector reports on work done during the year 1924.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES. During Years 1920 to 1925.

No. of Registered Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Licensed Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Slaughter Houses Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
„ „ defective reported upon and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
„ Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.

No. of Cowsheds, etc. on the Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
„ Letters and Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

## HOUSING.

No. of New Houses erected during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(a) Total (privately)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(b) as part of scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Unfit dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Nuisances remedied and houses made fit under P.H.A. 1875	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	197
„ Houses inspected under H.T.P. Act 1909	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ Defects found and dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
„ Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Houses inspected under the House (Inspection of District) Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ Action under Statutory Powers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Proceedings under P.H.A. 1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ „ H.T.P.A. 1919 Sec. 28.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ „ H.T.P.A. 1909 Sec. 17 and 18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

183 New Houses have been built since 1921.

Council erected 14 houses for the working classes, and are building 37 more, and contemplate further building.

Sanitary Inspector's Report is added, giving a detailed statement of the work carried out by him.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to thank you for the courtesy extended to me during the past year.

I thank the Clerk and other Officials of the Council for their kindly assistance.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
HUGH STOTT.





# BURGESS HILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### AREA OF DISTRICT.

Parish of Keymer Urban	...	...	...	...	1154.140
Parish of Clayton Urban	...	...	...	...	340.413
					<hr/> 1494.553 Acres. <hr/>
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	5,647
Estimated Population 1925	...	...	...	...	5,840

### Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The District may be described as chiefly residential and agricultural. It stands from 100 to 200 feet above sea level. The staple industry is Pottery.

Rateable value, £45,002 15s. 0d. Assessable value £38,133 11s. 3d. Sum represented by a penny rate: £158.

### Social Conditions.

A large proportion of the inhabitants are London and Brighton professional and business men residing in the district, the chief occupation of the working classes being Pottery and Agriculture.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### Water Supply.

The Burgess Hill Water Co. provide a constant supply of water to all parts of the district direct to the houses, and frequent analyses testify to the excellence and purity of the supply. The Company have three Pumping Stations on the South Downs some three or four miles distant. These stations are at Clayton, Whitelands and Down Coombe with reservoirs at Clayton and Down Coombe. No action of any sort has been necessary in respect of contamination, the supply being of exceptionally good quality.

#### Rivers and Streams.

There is no river in the district and only very few streams which are free from pollution.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

With the exception of remote parts of the district main drainage is provided. The Sewage Disposal is at present effected partially by tank and filter treatment and partially by land filtration. The land is of heavy clay and the results obtained by means of land treatment not proving satisfactory, a scheme of extension comprising additional sedimentation Tanks, Percolating Filters, Sludge Drying Beds and Storm Water Tanks is about to be carried out and the Ministry of Health having approved the scheme a Contract is being entered into for the carrying out of the work. No additions to the works have been made since the construction of the existing tanks and filters in 1914.


#### Closet Accommodation.

The water carriage system is general throughout the district and practically all houses have W.C. accommodation.

#### Scavenging.

Removal of House Refuse is undertaken by the Urban Council. All houses are provided with sanitary dustbins which are emptied weekly by the Council's dustmen and removed to a refuse tip.

The Council do not undertake the emptying of cesspools of which there are only about 20 in the district.



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## HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions—(1) With the exception of a shortage of houses the general housing conditions are good.

(2) (a) About a hundred additional houses are required to overcome shortage.

(b) A Housing Scheme has been under the Council's consideration for some months, and the erecting of 37 houses in Norman Road has just been commenced. It is intended to extend the number to such as will adequately meet the demand. Plans for the erection of 26 houses were approved during the year 1925 and 13 new houses were completed during the year.

(3) There has been no important change in the population during the period under review and none is anticipated, beyond a steady growth, in the future.

## II. Overcrowding.

(1) Notwithstanding that very few cases of serious overcrowding exists in many cases more than one family occupy the same house.

(2) The cause is entirely due to the shortage of houses.

(3) It is anticipated that the Council's Housing Scheme when completed will entirely overcome the evil of overcrowding.

(4) The principal case of overcrowding during the year 1925 was at No. 4 Shaftesbury Cottages, Freak's Lane, which allowing 300 cubic feet of air space per adult was overcrowded to the extent of two persons. Legal proceedings were taken in respect of this nuisance but the Council failed to obtain an Order for the abatement of the nuisance.

## III.

(1) (a) The general standard of housing in the area is good.

(b) Principal defects found to exist consisted of dirty and dilapidated walls and ceilings and in some instances dampness.

(c) About 80% of the defects are due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners and 20% due to the careless and dirty habits of the tenants.

(2)	No. of Notices under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	4
	„ „ „ Housing Act	...	...	...	...	20
	„ „ „ informal notices	...	...	...	...	19

(3) Generally speaking no difficulty has been found in remedying unfitness and no special measures have been taken or found necessary but in a few instances agreed arrangements have been made to carry out repairs gradually.

There are no back to back houses in the district.

(4) Housing conditions as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal are entire satisfactory.

## IV. Unhealthy Areas.

Nil.

## V. BYELAWS.

(1) Existing byelaws are enforced.

(2) No new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws are necessary. The Building Byelaws were revised in 1923.

## VI. GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Notices were served in respect of the following matters :

Drainage defects (including defective W.C.'s. and W.C. fittings)	...	...	20
Notices to provide new sinks	...	...	21
Insufficient water supply	...	...	2
Defective yard paving	...	...	4



**INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

(a)

- (1) No action taken with regard to tuberculosis milk and tuberculosis cattle.
- (2) No licenses granted.
- (3) No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk.
- (4) No samples submitted for examination.

(b) **MEAT.**

- (1) Notice of slaughtering is given by all butchers.
- (2) No. of slaughter houses inspections, 97.  
Condemned meat is disposed of by burial in lime.
- (3) There are three registered Slaughter Houses in the district and one Licensed Slaughter House. There is no public Slaughter Houses.

**Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1925.**

Number of Inspections of all kinds	...	...	...	...	470
"  "  Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	19
"  "  Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	24
"  "  Notices not complied with at 31st December, 1925	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisances reported and dealt with :—					
Defective Drains, Gullies etc.	...	...	...	...	3
"  "  Ventilation of Drains	...	...	...	...	1
"  "  Surface Water Drainage	...	...	...	...	Nil
"  "  W.C. Cisterns and Flushing Apparatus	...	...	...	...	5
"  "  W.C. Pans, Traps etc.	...	...	...	...	8
W.C.'s. in filthy condition	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s. with structural defects	...	...	...	...	10
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	Nil
"  "  ventilation of W.C.'s.	...	...	...	...	Nil
Defective or insanitary sinks	...	...	...	...	21
"  "  sink wastes	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses with dirty walls, ceilings etc.	...	...	...	...	73
"  "  "  "  structural defects	...	...	...	...	52
"  "  "  "  damp walls etc.	...	...	...	...	36
"  "  "  "  insufficient water supply	...	...	...	...	2
"  "  "  "  defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	4
"  "  "  "  insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	7
"  "  "  "  requiring new dustbins	...	...	...	...	24
"  "  "  "  cases of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	1
"  "  "  "  nuisances arising from filthy accumulations	...	...	...	...	2
"  "  "  "  "  keeping animals	...	...	...	...	Nil

**HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.**

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	309
"  "  defective houses reported upon and dealt with	...	...	...	...	100
"  "  Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	Nil

**WATER SUPPLY.**

Samples of Water were taken from the Company's mains in June and December and submitted to Dr. Allinson Woodhead for analysis from whom a very satisfactory report was received in both instances.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, as shown in the following table :—

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Tuberculosis ..	2				2	2					1		7
Chicken Pox ..	2	6	1		1	5				11	4	5	35
Pneumonia ..	1	5	4	1					1		1		12
Scarlet Fever ..			1	2									5
Diphtheria ..				1	1							1	3
Sucephalitis Lethargica ..							1						1
	5	11	6	4	4	7	1		1	11	6	7	63

Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	12
„ cases removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	8

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number of Registered Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	3
„ Licensed Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	1
„ Inspections	...	...	...	97
Informal Notices	...	...	...	2

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.

Number of Cowkeepers, Purveyors of Milk, etc. on the Register	...	21
„ Inspections	...	45
„ letters or informal notices	...	1





Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Year 1925, for the Urban District of Burgess Hill

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.**

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	3	None	None
<b>Workshops</b> ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	24	"	"
<b>Workplaces</b> ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises)	None	"	"
<b>Total</b> ... ..	27	"	"

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	3	3	Nil.	Nil.
Want of ventilation .. .. .				
Overcrowding .. .. .				
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .				
Other nuisances .. .. .				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient .. .. .				
{ unsuitable or defective .. .. .				
{ not separate for sexes .. .. .				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) .. ..				
Other offences .. .. . (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)				
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	3	3	Nil.	Nil.

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

(Signature) HUGH STOTT,  
M.O.H.

15th May, 1926.

